

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 to 6 and add new Claims 7 to 15 as shown below.

The claims as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. to 6. (Canceled)

7. (New) An electric potential measuring device, comprising:

a support member;

an oscillating body axially supported by the support member such that the oscillating body oscillates about the support member;

at least one detection electrode provided on the oscillating body;

means for varying a distance between the detection electrode and an electric potential measuring object disposed facing the detection electrode by causing the oscillating body to oscillate; and

signal detecting means connected to the detection electrode for detecting an output signal.

8. (New) The electric potential measuring device according to claim 7, wherein the support member is a torsion spring.

9. (New) The electric potential measuring device according to claim 7, wherein two detection electrodes are disposed at positions on both sides across a central axis about which the oscillating body oscillates, on the surface of the oscillating body, in

order that output signals containing information of different phases and amplitudes appear on the detection electrodes.

10. (New) The electric potential measuring device according to Claim 9, wherein the signal detecting means performs signal detection by use of a difference between the two output signals outputted from the detection electrodes.

11. (New) The electric potential measuring device according to Claim 7, wherein a surface of the oscillating body is one of a planar surface, a convex spherical surface, a convex cylindrical surface whose generating line is parallel to the oscillation central axis, and a roof-shaped surface whose edge line is parallel to the oscillation central axis.

12. (New) An image forming apparatus, comprising:  
the electric potential measuring device according to Claim 7; and  
image forming means,  
wherein a surface of the oscillating body of the electric potential measuring device is disposed facing a surface of an electric potential measuring object of the image forming means, and wherein the image forming means controls an image forming process by using the signal detection result from the electric potential measuring device.

13. (New) An electric potential measuring device, comprising:  
a support member;

an oscillating body axially supported by the support member such that the oscillating body oscillates about the support member;

a pair of detection electrodes provided on the oscillating body; and

means for varying a distance between the detection electrodes and an electric potential measuring object disposed facing the detection electrodes by causing the oscillating body to oscillate,

wherein the oscillating body is caused to oscillate such that when one of the pair of detection electrodes comes close to the electric potential measuring object, the other one of the pair of detection electrodes goes away from the electric potential measuring object.

14. (New) An electric potential measuring method, comprising the steps of:  
preparing an electric potential measuring device comprising an oscillating body axially supported by a support member such that the oscillating body oscillates about the support member, at least one detection electrode provided on the oscillating body, and signal detecting means connected to the detection electrode for detecting an output signal;

arranging the electric potential measuring device such that the detection electrode faces an electric potential measuring object;

varying a distance between the detection electrode and the electric potential measuring object by causing the oscillating body to oscillate; and

detecting an output signal with the signal detecting means.

15. (New) An electric potential measuring method, comprising the steps of:

preparing an electric potential measuring device comprising an oscillating body axially supported by a support member such that the oscillating body oscillates about the support member, a pair of detection electrodes provided on the oscillating body, and signal detecting means connected to the detection electrodes for detecting an output signal;

arranging the electric potential measuring device such that the detection electrodes face an electric potential measuring object;

varying a distance between the detection electrodes and the electric potential measuring object by causing the oscillating body to oscillate such that when one of the pair of detection electrodes comes close to the electric potential measuring object, the other one of the pair of detection electrodes goes away from the electric potential measuring object;

and

detecting an output signal with the signal detecting means.